

# Pioneer El Paso Has Disappeared In the Growing Metropolis

Many Notable Landmarks Of the Pass City Of the Early Days Have Passed Away, Giving Place To Structures Of Concrete and Steel That Now House Modern Banking and Mercantile Institutions.

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traders, blow, carpenters, masons, and kept their busy lining up streets alleys and corners and soon had scores of buildings in every direction. On north Oregon he started by building the two story building, later entirely demolished and now called the Johnston house. On north El Paso street—on the corner of Missouri, he erected the house, formerly owned and occupied by James C. Buckler, later enlarged and now used as the Osteopathic infirmary. He ran up a string of houses with lightning rapidity, a couple of blocks at a time on both sides of several streets, selling them like hot cakes as soon as completed, and using the money to grade more streets and lots and put up more buildings.

About this time he sold lots to others who erected their own houses, such as Ben Schuster, who erected his fine mansion on an elevation, corner of Boulevard and Santa Fe, now owned by Chas. H. Stevens; Joseph Schults, whose residence is now the Carnegie library; Peter Kern, the jeweler, who built the "castle-home" residence on Oregon, just above the Johnston house; W. G. Wais, whose residence still stands at the corner of west Boulevard and north El Paso streets; Judge Leigh Clark, whose house was just north of the present Osteopathic hospital; S. H. Buchanan, who erected several houses on north El Paso street; J. P. Dieter, who erected his mansion on the corner of Oregon and Prospect avenues; Ernest Kohlberg, whose house was on the corner of Oregon and Boulevard (in front of the site of the synagogue); George Minor, then the Catholic chapel and the St. Joseph academy followed on north Oregon; Theo. Eggers, whose house was on the site of the hotel later. All these and scores of others remain as mute monuments to the enterprises of John Fisher Satterthwaite. He had meanwhile spent thousands of dollars in leveling the hills and cutting streets through the barren hills of what is now Sunset Heights.

**South El Paso Street.**  
To form any conception of the wonderful change that has come over El Paso street one should compare the photographic views taken in 1881-2 with those of today. In 1881 El Paso street was a dirty thoroughfare lined on both sides with uncouth adobe huts from the acequia crossing it at the corner of San Francisco street down to the old acequia on Second street; and after the big rain of July 3, 1881, its name should have been "mud". Just before and after the railroad was building here, there was a great rush and demand for store rooms by retail merchants, saloon keepers and shops; and every old adobe found a tenant at the highest rentals. As soon as rented holes would have to be knocked through the fronts and windows, doors and fronts placed to let in light and customers.

During that year only five new and modern store buildings were erected on El Paso street, viz: (1) the one story brick faced building on the northeast corner of El Paso and San Antonio

street, later called the Fewell building; (2) the one story brick building at the northeast corner of Overland and El Paso streets, later called the Louvre; (3) the Senate saloon building, on the present site of the Magoffin building and Crescent theater, erected by George Speck; (4) the store rooms for the wholesale liquor store, of Thomas, which is the same one story building now occupied by Askin-Marine and the Princess theater; and (5) the two story wooden front structure, called the Davis block, at the north-west corner of west Overland and El Paso streets, occupied by Phil Young's Cafe, S. Schwartz and others. The two brick stores mentioned were erected by Brower, "the Flying Dutchman," from brick burned in the kilns of Zach T. White, February, 1881.

**Old Business Houses.**  
Down the east side of El Paso street beginning at the corner on the site of the present City National bank, was an old plastered one story adobe house, the front of which extended to the present sidewalk, curk in front of which was a lone cottonwood tree on the acequia, the stump of which long stood in the sidewalk. The front was occupied by Dr. Nichols's drug store, and back of it facing Pioneer plaza was George Ashbridge's barber shop. In 1882 this building was demolished and a two story brick building, of three store rooms, and iron and glass front, was erected by R. Schuster and J. P. Crosby; the corner was used by Theo. Rothschild's jewelry store, the "Diamond Palace," till 1883, then occupied by Stanley Good's dry goods store, and afterwards by Lesinsky Bros. A third and fourth story were afterwards placed on the northern portion of the building. In the same building to the south was Ben Schuster's grocery, then J. R. Freudenthal's dry goods store. On the site of the Lobby saloon was a two story wooden building occupied as a tinners' shop. Back or east was a saloon on the acequia on the site of Conner-Lane building.

In the Fewell building adjoining on the south was the clothing store of Lightbody & James and the grocery store of Stuart and Sutherland, and on the corner below was the State National bank of which C. H. Morehead was president and W. H. Austin cashier. This is now the site of the Parlor saloon. Across San Antonio street, on the opposite corner was the old adobe, one story building, then occupied in front by Jack Kraier's meat market, and in the rear, where Wells-Fargo building is, was the shop of Plontowski, the jeweler and watch repairer. In the fall and winter of 1882-3 this old house was removed and a new brick building two stories high (since made three) was erected jointly by the First National bank and Wells-Fargo. The bank at once and ever since has occupied the corner. Jefferson Reynolds was president and J. W. Zollars was cashier.

Sprinx Bros. & Davidson's dry goods store occupied the Wells-Fargo store room as first tenants. The upper story was occupied as offices, Hunter & Foster and the Herald office. Frank E. Hunter is the longest tenant, his

law office being there since 1883. A few years after, the express company moved in and occupied it till they sold the building to the First National bank.

**South of San Antonio Street.**  
Next to this was a piece of ground owned by S. C. Slade and afterward by B. Schuster and Reynolds and then by J. E. Barton who in November 23, 1882 sold it to Charles Lesinsky, who at once erected a three story brick building on it and leased the basement to Henneke & Pierce hardware men, and subsequently to their successors, Fasset & Kelly.

The third story was leased to the Old Fellows and has been their lodge room ever since. This building has a frontage of 33 feet. It was purchased on December 2, 1893, by Joseph L. Kopf for \$23,000 and remodeled for the Gem saloon, and is now called the Gem building. An idea of the increase in value on this site may be formed from the fact that it was sold in May, 1881 for \$1750; in December for \$2250; in January, 1882 for \$3000; and in November the same year for \$1800.

Next south of the last mentioned site was an adobe one story building then occupied by Ben Schuster & Fawcett, a store, and next by Barrett & Berlinez liquor dealers. J. Callisher moved his Tienda de California dry goods store soon after into the same building. In 1888 it was all torn down and the present block was erected and one store was occupied by Lightbody & James clothing store and now the Bijou moving picture theater and the other by Callisher and then D. Klein, and at present by C. C. Klefer. Next below this in the one story frame building was the drug store of W. A. Irvin and Thomas & Mitchell's liquor store and next by the Acme saloon and the old Link restaurant of Smith, Thompson & March, Kinney and Louis Toomige; these rooms are now occupied by the Crescent theater and Askin-Marine.

The corner on the corner was the new brick building owned by W. J. Fewell and then occupied by Dr. Cumming's restaurant. Since then it has been continuously used for saloons or liquor stores and by St. Ryan and Gen. Stoneman. It is said to have cost Fewell only four thousand dollars. It has lately been called the Louvre building and now La Patria.

**Overland Stage Station.**  
South across west Overland street on the corner was the old Overland adobe building, once military barracks and the station for the great overland stage line. It had porches in front of adobe. In 1881 the corner was occupied by the old Boss saloon and the feed and grain store run by the Coffin Bros. first and afterwards by H. R. Hillebrand. In the same building was C. H. Lucas's tin shop and afterward Geo. Rolter's fruit and produce store; later it was bought by Howard Rankin & O'Fallon of St. Louis and occupied by K. K. Moore and More.

Back of it fronting on east Overland street was the blacksmithy and carriage shop of Charles Cline and the blacksmith shop of Joseph Glat, afterward candidate for mayor against Lightbody and Satterthwaite. Below this there was nothing ex-

cept a lot of hovels and huts and across the acequia was the habitation of George Rand. The old Overland building was demolished about 14 years ago and the present building erected at first one story, then later, raised to two stories.

In 1883 on ground on the east side of the street, some little distance below the Overland building, was erected the Monarch block, being built jointly by W. S. Hills, W. J. Fewell, John Catron and J. P. Hague; the ground floor being for stores and the second story for offices. While the new county court house was being constructed in 1884-5 the upper story of

it was occupied as the district court room and clerks' and sheriff's offices. T. A. Falvey, judge; Frank Clark, clerk; A. H. White and J. H. Comstock, sheriffs.

**West side of El Paso Street.**  
Going south in 1881 from the south-west corner of San Francisco and El Paso streets, there was on the (present Wais) corner a low adobe structure about 16 feet high used as a carpenter shop. This was afterward fixed up and used as a grocery store by the Brink Bros. and next came a shoe shop and a little restaurant, Kennedy ran the shoe shop. These shacks were destroyed and in 1884-5 Joseph Schults

erected the present three story brick building.

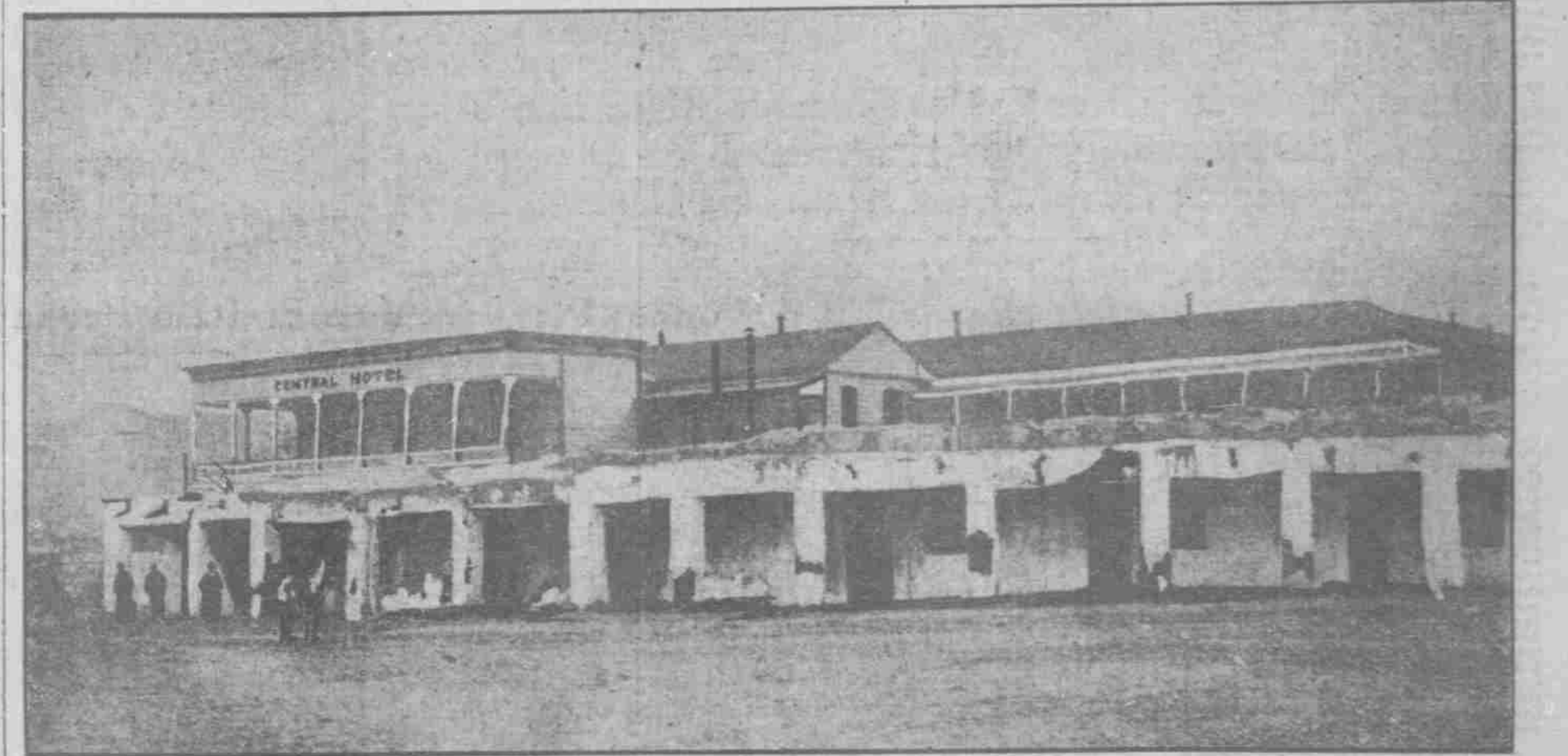
Next below came similar adobe houses but with porches in front, occupied by restaurants and meat markets and small grocery and fruit stands. Some of these were removed in 1883 and Mundy Bros. erected the three story building called the Mundy block. The building and artical was J. J. Stewart. The third story was used for the Masonic and other fraternity lodge rooms, the second story for offices of Millard Patterson, Henry L. Capell, Judge Moorman, H. B. Stevens and Chas Comstock and the store rooms were occupied by Mundy

Bros. meat market (afterward Fenchler's) and Stuart & Sutherland's Pioneer grocery.

In the same year the building now occupied by the Clubhouse restaurant was erected and in it L. Hays opened a large grocery store. Also in 1883, Francis Parker, the photographer, tore down the old adobe and erected the three story brick building in which the Union Clothing store now is, using the two upper stories for his studio; the ground store being Carou's meat market. In the same year W. A. Irvin, druggist, tore down some old adobe.

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## Where El Paso Began; Old Ponce Ranch House Built 1827



The old adobe shown on the corner is the original Ponce ranch house, the first building erected on the present site of El Paso; this was the headquarters of Ponce's ranch, and the main acequia or irrigating ditch ran in front through what is now Pioneer Plaza. The two story structure adjoining the corner building was also originally a part of the Ponce ranch house, and the frame top was added in the old stage coach days. The building with the name "Central hotel" burned down in the early '90's and was replaced by a one story (later two story) substantial brick building, known as the Plaza block. Last year this was demolished, and a seven story reinforced concrete building erected on the site (the new Plaza block or White House, shown in other views in this section). In the early '80's the Ponce ranch house was demolished and the four story Grand Central hotel, shown in the bottom picture on this page, was erected. The Grand Central burned down in 1891. Then the original Mills building was built, a one story brick structure later raised to two stories, a fine building in its day. Last year this two story brick building was demolished, and the 12 story Mills building erected on the site, this being the fourth building that has occupied the site.

### NOWADAYS.

(From Judge.)  
Drummer—See here! I want an investigation at once! Some one went through my grip, ransacked my books, and turned my clothes inside out last night. It's a plain case of robbery! Hotel Clerk—Robbery nothing! The boys just wanted to find out if you had a membership card in the Anti-Tipping league.

## Same Spot As Above, Thirty Years Later (1912)



This is the real heart of El Paso, as well as the spot where El Paso actually began. The land around this corner is now worth \$20 to \$25 per square foot, or \$1,000,000 an acre. The buildings shown in this picture occupy exactly the site of the buildings shown in the first picture.—Trost & Trost Architects, Mills Building.

## The Famous Old Grand Central Hotel, About 1888



This building was famous in its day throughout the west, and every person in the United States who passed through El Paso while it was standing will recall with pleasure his stay here. The hotel burned to the ground, from the roof down, in the winter of 1891. The same site is now occupied by the 12 story Mills building.

# Valley Implement and Vehicle Company

504 San Francisco Street

We will open up in February with a full and complete line of P. & O. IMPLEMENTS, GAS ENGINES, IRRIGATION PUMPS, BUGGIES, CARRIAGES, WAGONS and AUTOMOBILES. Later we will put in a complete line of HARNESS.

We will be prepared to do a jobbing business in Northern Mexico, Southern New Mexico, Southeastern Arizona and Western Texas, as well as to care for the retail trade in El Paso and the El Paso Valley.

Mr. J. Hise Myers, our Manager, is well acquainted with the needs of the trade here and will give careful attention to the wants of the farmers and others wishing goods in our line in this vicinity. He will have the advice in selecting goods of our Mr. M. L. Cadwallader, who is the best posted man in the country on the kind of Implements needed for farming and gardening in this Valley.

We ask that those contemplating the purchase of anything in our line if possible wait until we have our stock ready for exhibition. We have a show room 70 by 125 feet being the second floor of 504-506 and 508 San Francisco street, where we expect to display a fine line of goods.

Our Mr. Smith will attend the Automobile Show in Chicago the first of February, accompanied by an expert auto man and expects to secure control of this territory for a complete line of first class Automobiles of both pleasure and delivery cars in prices ranging from \$500 to \$2500. If you think of buying an Auto wait until we get ours in.

We have on hand some P. & O. stock taken over from former dealers and parties wishing supplies will be accommodated by calling on us.

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P. O. Box 208.

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